

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

HealthTech programme

Equality impact assessment: scoping

Bed frames for adults in acute settings: Late-stage assessment

The impact on equality has been assessed during this evaluation according to the principles of the [NICE Equality scheme](#).

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the topic briefing note or during selection, and, if so, what are they?

Equality considerations identified during scoping related to 1-piece closed bags include:

- Older people or people with underlying skin conditions may be more likely to have fragile skin that is prone to tearing. These people may be at higher risk of infection or pressure ulcers in a hospital bed setting.
- People that are shorter or taller than average may struggle to get into or out of bed frames that have limited height variability.
- Caregivers may be at higher risk of sustaining injury when moving and handling patients if they are shorter or taller than average.
- Some people may need additional support or may have difficulty using certain bed features because of a visual or cognitive impairment, reduced manual dexterity or a learning disability.
- Neurodivergent people may find certain bed features unsuitable or may need additional support.
- For people admitted to acute hospitals who are at high risk of self-harm, beds that have a reduced ligature risk may need to be used.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the committee?

The following subgroups have been included in the scope:

- People with a mental health condition
- People who are frail
- People with a learning disability or cognitive impairment.

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

Following discussions at the scoping workshop the following subgroup was added to the decision question: people with a learning disability or cognitive impairment.

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues were identified during the scoping process.

Approved by Associate Director: Lizzy Latimer

Date: 24/09/2024